

REMARKS

Applicant's Statement of Substance of Interview

Applicants wish to express appreciation to Examiner Sheela C. Chawan for the courtesy of a personal interview which was granted to Applicants' representative Michael Faibisch (Reg. No. 48,427) at the USPTO on June 28, 2006. The Examiner's statement of the substance of the interview is set forth in the Interview Summary, numbered Paper No. 20060628. Applicants' representative pointed out that in the previous response the claims were amended so that the independent claims incorporate the allowable subject matter of objected claims. Agreement was reached that the Examiner would withdraw rejections based on the Gleason reference because its filing date is later than the priority date of the present Application.

General Remarks

Claims 316, 318 – 320, 322, 325, 327, 354 – 357, 360 – 362, 364, 365, 373 – 377, 379 – 382, 396 – 399, 401 – 412, 437, and 439 – 444 are pending in the application. No claims are currently amended.

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Office Action in the present application. The present amendment is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed April 26, 2006, and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of all claims under consideration is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of claims 325, 327, 354 – 357, 360 – 362, 364, 365, 373 – 377, 379 – 382, 409 – 412, 437 and 439, 441 – 444 is acknowledged with appreciation.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 316, 318 – 320, 322, 396, 401, 404 and 440 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Gleason et al. (US 6,456,899). Claims 397, 398, 399, 402, 403, and 405 – 408 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gleason et al. and Yaniv et al. (US 6,586,829).

The priority date of the present application is July 25, 1999, rendering this date the effective date of the present application. The Gleason reference was filed on December 7, 1999, which post dates the effective date (July 25, 1999) of the present application. In view the

foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the present 35 USC 102(e) and the 35 USC 103(a) rejections, both of which rely on the Gleason reference.

Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the Office Action mailed on August 15, 2005 in which claims 317, 321, 322 and 400, *inter alia*, pending at the time, were indicated in that Office Action as including allowable subject matter, and that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

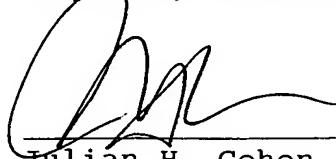
In their response to the Office Action of August 15, 2005, submitted on January 17, 2006, Applicants amended the claims as follows, *inter alia*: Claim 316 was amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of its dependent claim 317, and claim 317 was canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; claim 320 was amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of its dependent claim 321, and claim 321 was canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; claim 396 was amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of its dependent claim 400, and claim 400 was canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; claim 440 was added as a new claim which incorporated the subject matter of rejected independent claim 320 and its allowable dependent claim 322.

Conclusion and Request for Interview

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in order. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are hereby respectfully solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. _____. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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